

The Mormon Temple.
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PLATE NO. 1—FROM THE BERLIN MUSEUM COLLECTION.
Magic Disk for use under mummy's head. Note similarity to Plate No. 4 from "The Pearl of Great Price."

THE sacred books of the Mormon Church, which this wholly American cult proclaims to have been given divinely to the first Mormon prophet as a solemn addenda to the known Scriptures, have now been in circulation in Mormondom for about seventy years. On their faith that the texts were really produced through the gift and power of God, hundreds of thousands of devotees have hailed Joseph Smith as the "prophet, seer, and revelator" of God, and God's spokesman on earth. His successor, Joseph F. Smith, the present prophet, they hail by the same title, and so strong is their faith that the prophet wields unlimited power in politics, in finance, and in religion in at least two Western States.

Within three months the only one of these sacred writings to which the test of scholarship could be applied has been submitted to such a test, and its authenticity has been destroyed completely. The walls of the Egyptian rooms of the Metropolitan Museum proclaim it to be a fraud. Dr. Albert M. Lythgoe, Curator of the Egyptian department, voices unequivocally the condemnatory evidence of the mute Egyptian drawings and hieroglyphics. Two eminent scholars in England, two scholars in Germany, and four of the most noted Egyptologists in this country join, without a dissenting paragraph, in the condemnation.

The sacred Mormon text was susceptible of accurate and complete analysis from the simple fact that it was taken from a genuine Egyptian original. The translation was a work of the Mormon prophet's curious imagination. Within a few weeks all leading officials of the Mormon Church will receive from the Rt. Rev. F. S. Spaulding, Episcopal Bishop of Utah, the results of an extended inquiry among the scholars of the world as to the accuracy of the Prophet Joseph Smith's work on ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics. Bishop Spaulding has collected the opinions of the scholars for distribution among the Mormons themselves. He writes to the Mormons in a kindly mood, and describes the ideas of their prophet and founder as "self-delusions," instead of using a shorter and an uglier word.

Much of Bishop Spaulding's work was done in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in this city. The ten rooms of the Egyptian collection yielded proof in such abundance that any layman, even in Egyptology, can take the drawings as published in the sacred Mormon record, and reproduced on this page of THE TIMES, and find dozens of duplicates of certain figures in them on the walls of the Museum and in its cases of Egyptian objects.

A certain picture in the Mormon work representing Abraham "sitting

Sacred Books Claimed to Have Been Given Divinely to the First Prophet Are Shown to be Taken from Old Egyptian Originals, Their Translation Being a Work of the Imagination--What a Comparison with Metropolitan Museum Treasures Shows.

testify that any of its messages from on high were actually delivered, so that the Mormons accept this work, with its divine order authorizing polygamous marriage, upon their general credence in their prophet.

The "Book of Mormon" was written, as Smith proclaimed, from golden plates delivered to him from a hill in New York State by an Angel of the Lord. He translated these plates by divine power, as he asserted, and then gave the originals back to the Angel. But, first, to give his book a creditable standing, he had three men look over the golden plates, heft them, and hear the words of the Angel of the Lord concerning them. Also he had eight men look over the plates and heft

to challenge him because there was no Egyptian scholarship amounting to anything at that time. The working out of the Egyptian alphabet was a matter of more recent accomplishment, and the scholarship that has grown up in its wake has not had an opportunity to overhaul and submerge the Mormon claim to the divine origin of its sacred work.

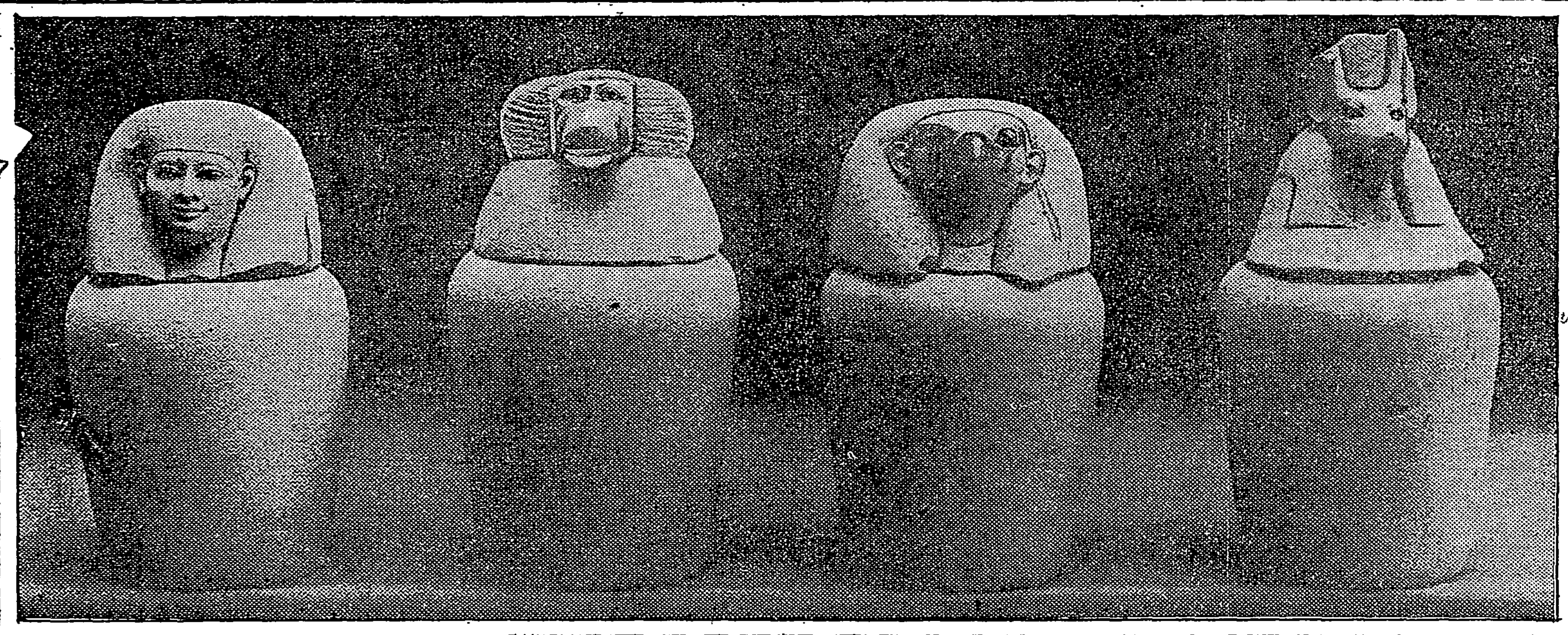
It should be mentioned that in addition to their own particular three divine works the Mormons accept the King James version of the Bible, but with the proviso that they accept it only "so far as it is translated correctly." Their other sacred books they accept without any qualifications whatever.

on the gold plates he had given back to the Angel, it occurred to the prophet to oblige them with still some more scripture, produced from an Egyptian mummy.

When Bishop Spaulding was obtaining data as to the real significance of the papyrus obtained by the Mormons Dr. Lythgoe was absent from the Metropolitan Museum on an Egyptian expedition. He was found at the Museum last week, and a copy of the Mormon work, with drawings from the original of the Mormon papyrus, was shown him.

Palpable Mistakes.

"Sad copies of very familiar papyrus," he said, "and a sadder, a much sadder,



STONE JARS FROM EGYPTIAN TOMB.

The Mormon Prophet Joseph Smith, finding these jars pictured on a roll of papyrus, translated them "under Divine guidance," as meaning four idolatrous gods before whom Abraham was about to be sacrificed by an Egyptian priest. (See Plate No. 2.) This photograph, taken from the original jars in the Egyptian Collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, was furnished to THE TIMES through the kindness of Dr. Lythgoe, Curator of the Department of Egyptian Art.

In fact when the "Book of Mormon" first appeared it was pointed out in its behalf that it contained in their original purity certain early sections of the Bible which the original settlers of this Continent brought here with them from Jerusalem and kept with their records. It was also said that the Mormon prophet gained access to them through Divine favor. The "Book of Abraham" they especially delighted in because it gave to the Mormons without the corrupting influence of any Christian translation a new history of the world's formation direct from Abraham himself through the medium of an Egyptian mummy.

The Egyptian mummy and the papyrus inside of it were genuine enough, as is well attested through the scores of duplications of it which the Metropolitan and other museums contain. As Bishop Spaulding concludes, and as

translation. Come upstairs with me and I will show you several pictures that duplicate the figure that the Mormon prophet says is Abraham sitting on the throne of Pharaoh. It is merely Osiris, god of the underworld. And I will show you more duplicates of the figure the Mormons declare to be Pharaoh. It is Isis, wife of Osiris, who is always with him. And when it comes to the Mormon picture of 'God on His Throne, signifying the Grand Key-Words of the Holy Priesthood as revealed to Adam in the Garden of Eden,' why that is a sad joke.

"The representation is the most common of all in Egyptian papyri. It is the view of the 'Sun god in his boat.' The Mormon version is right in that this is the picture of a god, but it is the chief god of a polytheistic people instead of God, who was worshipped by monotheistic Abraham, and pictures of him were among the widely distributed pictures in Egypt."

An examination of the Mormon explanation of the three pictures from the papyrus, which the Mormons printed in their "Pearl of Great Price," indicated that at times the divine power of the prophet left him, because under some of the figures a legend was written in lieu of a translation, saying that it "ought not to be revealed at the present time," and "will be revealed in the fullness of the Lord." A weirdly concluding line after one part of the translation was given as far as we have any right to give it at the present time. Under another section was this: "This ought not to be revealed; if the world can find out these numbers so let it be. Amen."

The things that puzzled the inspired Mormon translator were no puzzle at all to Dr. Lythgoe. They were simply snatches of a hymn to the Sun god inserted on every flat disk that was put, for its magical effect as a charm, under the head of the ordinary mummy. The pictures were very badly drawn in the Mormon version, but still were near enough to the originals for their character to be known.

A picture that Prophet Joseph Smith declared to stand for "the earth in its four quarters" was found to stand, in fact, for the four genii of the Egyptians—the four sons of Horus, whose pictures occur time and time again—one with the head of a hawk, one with the head of a baboon, one with the head of a jackal, and one with the head of a human. The familiar "hawk of Horus" of the Egyptian hieroglyphics, which was used always to symbolize the soul, became to the Mormon prophet, in one instance, a dove, engaged in presenting the Holy Ghost as a sign to Abraham by God's order, and, in another instance, it became an Angel of the Lord, hovering near Abraham as he lay fastened upon an altar.

The first of the three pictures from the Mormon work submitted by THE TIMES reporter to Dr. Lythgoe was that of Abraham about to be sacrificed on an altar, with a figure bending over him, knife in hand. Beside the altar, in the Mormon version, stood four figures which Prophet Smith styled

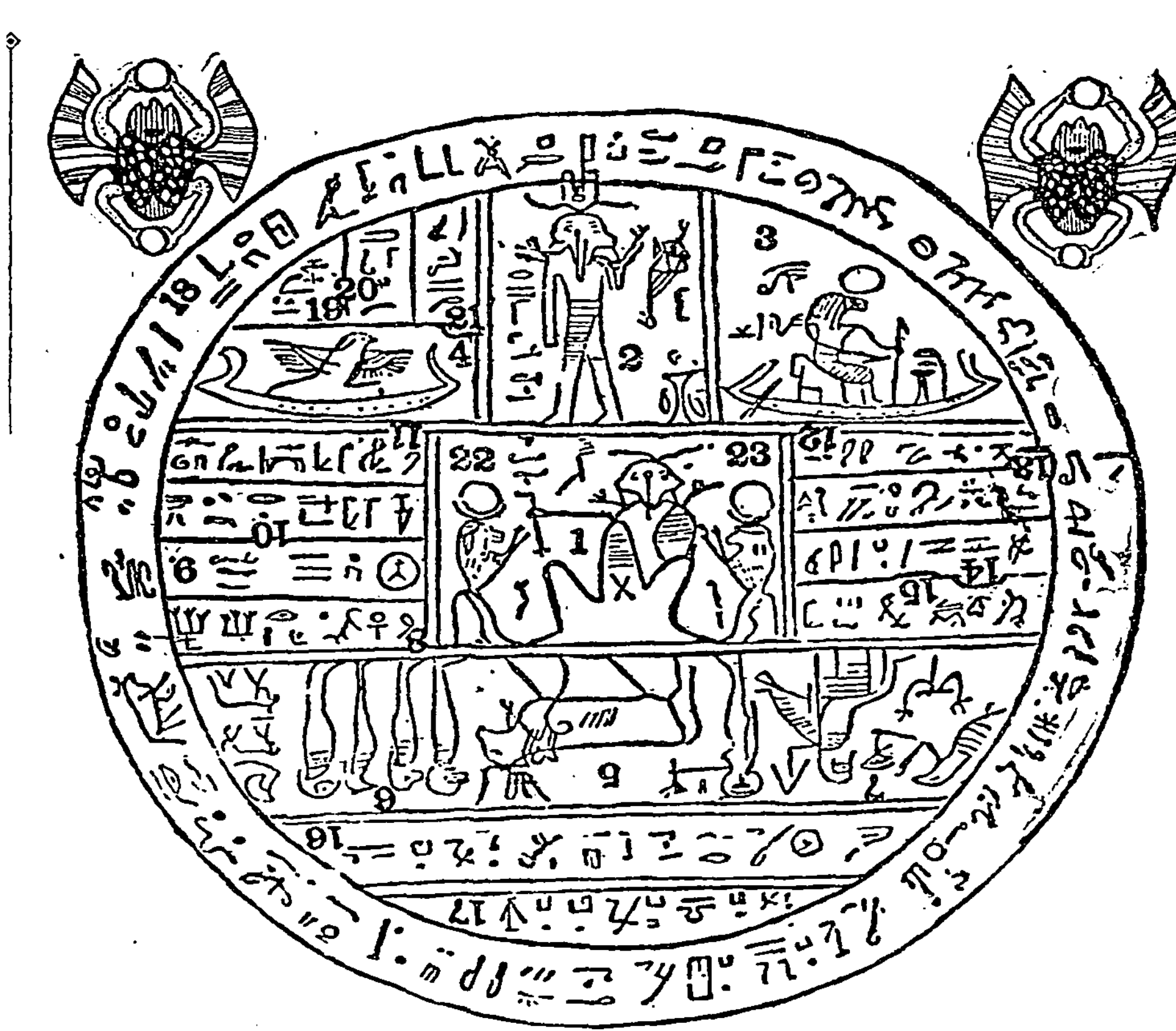


PLATE NO. 4—FROM "THE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE."

Mormon Prophet's Translation.

Fig. 1. Kolob, signifying the first creation, nearest to the celestial, or residence of God. First in government, the last pertaining to the measurement of time. The measurement according to celestial time which celestial time signifies one day to a cubit. One day in Kolob is equal to a thousand years, according to the measurement of this earth, which is called by the Egyptians Jah-oh-eh.

Fig. 2. Stands next to Kolob, called by the Egyptians Oliblish which is the next grand governing creation near to the celestial or the place where God resides, holding the key of power also, pertaining to other planets; as revealed from God to Abraham, as he offered sacrifice upon an altar, which he had built unto the Lord.

Fig. 3. Is made to represent God, sitting upon His throne, clothed with power and authority; with a crown of eternal light upon his head; representing also the grand key-words of the Holy Priesthood, as revealed to Adam in the garden of Eden; as also to Seth, Noah, Melchisedek, Abraham, and all to whom the priesthood was revealed.

Fig. 4. Answers to the Hebrew word Raukeeyang, signifying expanse, or the firmament of the heavens; also a numerical figure, in Egyptian signifying one thousand; answering to the measuring of the time of Oliblish, which is equal with Kolob in its revolution and in its measuring of time.

Fig. 5. Is called in Egyptian Ensh-go-on-dosh; this is one of the governing planets also, and is said by the Egyptians to be the Sun, and to borrow its light from Kolob through the medium of Kae-e-vanrah, which is the grand Key, or, in other words, the governing power, which governs fifteen other fixed planets or stars, as also Floese, or the Moon, the Earth, and the Sun in their annual revolutions. This planet receives its power through the medium of Kili-flos-le-es, or Hah-ko-kah-beam, the stars represented by numbers 22 and 23, receiving light from the revolutions of Kolob.

Fig. 6. Represents the earth in its four quarters. Fig. 7. Represents God sitting upon His throne, revealing through the heavens the grand Key-words of the Priesthood; as also, the sign of the Holy Ghost unto Abraham, in the form of a dove.

Fig. 8. Contains writing that cannot be revealed unto the world; but is to be had in the Holy Temple of God, as revealed unto Abraham, in the form of a dove.

Fig. 9. Ought not to be revealed at the present time.

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Fig. 12. Also. If the world can find out these numbers, so let it be. Amen.

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MUSEUM WALLS PROCLAIM FRAUD OF MORMON PROPHET

(Continued from Page 1.)

and the characters drawn in as border vignettes.

The usual papyrus begins with a scene of the dead man on his bier. Then follows a picture of the body being drawn on a sledge toward its tomb, with dancing girls, professional mourners, and priests going before it. A picture shows the interment in the tomb, and then begins a series showing the wanderings through the underworld toward the final judgment at the throne of Osiris.

And in the Mormon pictures it was clear that the first one of these stock scenes had been copied off, and also the last one. The third piece of writing published with the Mormon "Pearl of Great Price" was on a circular disk, and this disk Dr. Lythgoe went over carefully.

"Egyptian scholars give this particular disk a name," he said. "They call it a 'hypocephalus,' which means literally 'under the head.' Like the length of garment on the figures and the kind of lids on the stone jars this disk shows that the Mormons gained possession of a mummy and papyrus from the comparatively late Egyptian period. During our work in Egypt last Winter we obtained some of those disks that were nothing but slabs of Nile mud.

"Here is a disk of exactly the same sort," Dr. Lythgoe remarked, as he turned to a volume on Egyptian religion by Adolf Erman.

On Page 188 of this volume a drawing was found of a circular disk, which was almost exactly a duplicate of the disk from which the Mormon prophet took a record of Abraham in the act of receiving God's word.

Dr. Lythgoe took up some of the slight discrepancies in the Mormon pictures from the Egyptian originals. He expressed the wish that he might see the original papyrus that the Prophet Smith translated or a photograph of it, instead of drawings made from it. In the first of the Mormon figures the god Anubis, bending over the mummy, was shown with a Humna and a strangely un-Egyptian head, instead of the jackal's head usual to such

a scene. And a knife had been drawn into the god's hand. Thus he was made into a shape from which it became possible to glean the idea of the attempted "sacrifice of Isaac."

In the third picture, again, the leading of the dead man's soul before Osiris and Isis contained an incongruity in one of the figures—that of the black man. Dr. Lythgoe explained that the Egyptians in their drawings made the undraped parts of their women in yellow coloring matter and the undraped portions of the men in dark red. He expressed the belief that the Mormon artist had obtained his black figure by making in black what was dark red in the original and that he had also marred the head which was meant to be the unshaven head of a priest. In many pictures Dr. Lythgoe indicated the manner in which the heads of ordinary people were shown wearing wigs, while the heads of priests were shown as shaved.

In the museum room in which the latest accessions to the Egyptian collection are kept an offering table was found in the original stone. It was a gift from J. Pierpont Morgan, and corresponded in design to a figure that appears three times in the Mormon drawings. The Mormon prophet translated the object twice as "Abraham in Egypt," once as the throne of God. Actually it is the offering table, covered with lotus flowers, which was a part of the regular furniture of a tomb, and was depicted on practically all papyri as standing beside the coffin or in front of a god to whom offerings were being made.

Opinions of the Scholars.

Bishop Spalding excuses the Mormons for never attempting to have the scholarship of their prophet tested before accepting his translation on the grounds that the Egyptian grammar of Champollion was not completed until 1841, and an adequate knowledge of Egyptian hieroglyphics was not achieved until years later than this. From the diary of the Mormon prophet himself a full account is to be had of the gusto with which he received the Egyptian papyrus and proceeded to give it forth in an English version. He re-

ceived the mummies and "two or three rolls of papyri" from Michael H. Chandler, who promptly gave a certificate of accuracy when he heard the prophet's translations. This certificate he signed as "proprietor" of the mummies.

"Soon after this," the prophet wrote in his diary, "I commenced the translation of some of the characters of hieroglyphics and, much to our joy, found that one of the rolls contained the writings of Abraham, another the writings of Joseph of Egypt. Truly, we can say that the Lord is beginning to reveal the abundance of peace and truth."

"The remainder of the month," the prophet wrote again in 1835, "I was continually engaged in translating an alphabet to the Book of Abraham and arranging a grammar of the Egyptian language as practiced by the ancients."

The drawings from the Egyptian papyrus printed by the Mormon prophet, together with his translation, were submitted by Bishop Spalding to leading scholars throughout the civilized world. Their comments do not vary in any consequential particular from the comments of Dr. Lythgoe of the Metropolitan Museum.

"It is difficult to deal seriously with Joseph Smith's impudent fraud," wrote Dr. A. H. Sayce of Oxford University. "The fac simile from the Book of Abraham No. 2 is an ordinary hypocephalus, but the hieroglyphics upon it have been copied so ignorantly that hardly one of them is correct. I need scarcely say that Kolob, &c., are unknown to the Egyptian language. Smith has turned the goddess Isis into a king and Osiris into Abraham."

Dr. Flinders Petrie of London University wrote that "they are copies of Egyptian subjects of which I have seen dozens of examples. They are centuries later than Abraham. The attempts to guess a meaning for them in the professed explanations are too absurd to be noticed."

Dr. James H. Breasted of the Haskell Oriental Museum, University of Chicago, reviewed the situation at length.

"If Joseph Smith could read ancient Egyptian writing," he wrote, "then his ability had no connection with the de-

cipherment of hieroglyphics by European scholars. In publishing these fac similes as part of a unique revelation to Abraham, Joseph Smith was attributing to Abraham not three unique documents of which no other copies exist, but was attributing to Abraham a series of documents which were the common property of a whole nation of people, who employed them in every human burial which they prepared. The little disks for use under the head did not appear in any Egyptian burials until 1,000 years after the time of Abraham. They were unknown in Abraham's day."

"A Figaro of nonsense," was the way Dr. Arthur Mace, Assistant Curator of the Metropolitan Museum, who is now in Egypt, summed up the Mormon translations.

Dr. John Peters of the University of Pennsylvania, who conducted an expedition to Babylonia in 1888, could find nothing but amusement in the Mormon prophet's work. "The interpretation of the plates," he wrote, "displays ignorance."

"None of those, either human or divine, who helped in Joseph Smith's translation had any conception of the most commonplace Egyptian characters," wrote Prof. C. A. B. Mercer, custodian of the Hibbard collection of Egyptian reproductions at the Western Theological Seminary.

Two noted German scholars—Dr. Edward Meyer of the University of Berlin and Dr. von Blissing of the University of Munich—added their opinions to the general chorus of exposure and condemnation.

"The papyrus which Joseph Smith declared to be the Book of Abraham," wrote Dr. Meyer, "and explained in his fantastic way, are parts of the well-known 'Book of the Dead.'"

Bishop Spalding hasn't much hope of reaching the ordinary variety of faithful Mormon who "sustains the authorities" in all things, including politics and tithing offering, with his little pamphlet of exposure. But he hopes that Mormons who have been trained in the universities and have some conception of the integrity of scholarship and the inscrutability of

evidence, such as that presented in the Egyptian collection at the Metropolitan Museum, will have open hearts, and so will receive the plain truth presented to them. The breaking up of Mormonism through the desertion of the intelligent part of its membership is the future for the Prophet Smith's church which Bishop Spalding foresees. It is for that reason that he prefers to address the Mormons as his friends rather than to attack them.

Advance copies of Bishop Spalding's exposure of the Mormon prophet's translations, when they reached the dignitaries of the Mormon Church, caused something more than the stir that might normally have been expected. The official newspaper of the Church, The Deseret Evening News, spent its entire editorial page reviling scholars and scholarship. Brigham H. Roberts, the best known scholar of the Church, and its chief living defender, publicly thanked Bishop Spalding for the moderation of tone characterizing his work and for its scholarly and judicial spirit.

Confessing himself to be frankly a layman on all things having to do with Egyptian funerary customs and hieroglyphics, Mr. Roberts appealed to the young people of his church to postpone reaching final convictions. To the Church in general he addressed a plea "for a bar of conclusions," on the grounds that it was obviously impossible to answer the assertions of the scholars offhand. The one thing Mr. Roberts felt confident enough to do was to point out such discrepancies as the fact that one scholar called the hawk in the bier scene "The Hawk of Horus," while another called it "Isis"; another said "it ought to have a human head," and still another said it stood for "the soul."

At the Metropolitan Museum examples are shown of where the hawk stood for all these things. The legend was that Isis took the form of a hawk to escape the enemies of Osiris, her husband, and that as a hawk she became the mother of Horus. Thus the hawk, when used to represent the soul, came to be known as "The Hawk of Horus," and, as the "Ba-bird," (soul bird,) was represented in papyri as human-headed.